

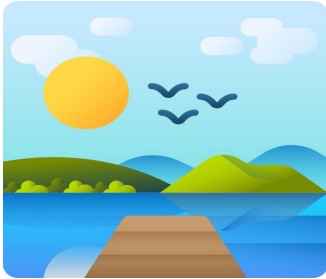


HLA NewsLetter 2022

Hamilton Lake Association

**P.O. Box 515
Hamilton, IN 46742**

A Warm Hello to all who are fortunate to enjoy Lake Living on Hamilton Lake!



We're hoping you are all staying warm, healthy and safe during these 'trying' COVID times. This virus has surely changed a lot of things in all of our lives as well as with the HLA. We've had to plan our events with a lot of thought to help keep our Community safe. Changing the format of the Poker Run was our biggest obstacle but I believe it was a great success! We wanted to keep our Annual meeting in June at the beginning of summer, but that had to be moved to August. The High School was very accommodating so we could 'social distance'. We were able to have our annual raffle at the

Summerfest. This year our Grand Prize was a 3 Seater Towable Tube/Rope followed with cash prizes.

We continue to be very active with Hamilton Lake's weed problems, working diligently with the DNR to find the best solutions. We propose what we would like to see done but the DNR Biologist has the final say.

We are extremely excited about the new restaurants in town-Howie's and Lakers Landing. The Rio has also been sold and will soon be the site of Hamilton Outfitters. The new restroom facility at the beach will be so useful. I'm sure the weekend beach goers will be extremely thankful for it.

Your HLA Enhancement funds are used primarily for weed control. However, we also donate to the Steuben County Lake

Council for Water Quality Testing, purchase buoys, and pay for the annual Goose Roundup. A gift basket is also donated to the Chamber of Commerce Auction whose proceeds go to the Parks Department for children's summer programs.



HLA sponsors an Annual Goose Round-Up every June to control the number of geese on our lake. In 2021, 100 geese were relocated to the Pigeon River Reserve.

HLA makes up a Welcome Packet with information from all establishments in town, which is given to all new home owners. If you know of anyone new to the lake, including yourself, please contact an HLA Board Member. Check out our website at www.hamiltonlake.org for phone numbers.

2022 Board of Directors

Janet Albright
Jan Biddle
Valerie Fetters
Gina Freer
Peggy Hayden
Toni Justice
Gary Luechauer
Skip Markland
Jan (Bill) Miller
Karen Piekarski
Dave Price
Linda Skelly
Cheryl Silverhart
Cathy Wagenknecht
Jayma Watkins

Important Dates



DNR Boating Safety Class

Sat May 7th, Town Hall

Free to ALL ages

To Register:

<https://register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

Annual HLA Meeting

Saturday, June 18th 9 am

Hamilton High School
Gymnasium

HLA Annual Poker Run

Saturday July 30th



Hamilton Police

260-488-3721

Steuben Co Dispatch

260-665-3131

Safety Contacts

DNR Central Dispatch (24 hr)

812-837-9536

District 2 DNR (M-F) 8am-4pm

260-244-3720



2021 Poker Run

July 31 was a Beautiful day to be on the lake after the COVID absence of 2020. Nine hundred tickets were sold, and the boats were filled with supporters celebrating the event. Nine homeowners provided fun pier stops, generously donating their time, energy, treats and creativity. The closing ceremonies awarded the 1st place to the winning hand of Five 5's held by Denver Stair. Other winners included Kelsea Sorg, Jeremy Hanks, Sean Plunket, Brandon Jones and Greg Bowman. Total profits for the day was \$ 15,000. See you all this year on the last Saturday of July. **Mark your calendar for July 30th.**

PLANT MANAGEMENT RECAP

Hamilton Lake 2021 Season

Here's a general recap of HLA sponsored aquatic plant management activities at Hamilton Lake during the 2021 season. Targeting the two main invasive species, curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, is typically the focus, but this year native plants were treated as well. As is typically the case, the season was started mapping the growth of curly-leaf pondweed early in the spring. This plant is treated early in the season for maximum effectiveness. In April 250 acres were treated. The curly-leaf treatments were successful in getting this particular plant out of the way for the duration of the 2021 season. This was followed up with the treatment of 7 acres for native plants in June. Several times throughout the season Eurasian watermilfoil was searched for; the plant that has caused the most problems at Hamilton Lake historically, but none were located in 2021. It is suspected that this is due to the Eurasian watermilfoil being eliminated by the curly-leaf treatments early in the season. Algae treatments were performed along all developed shorelines in June and again in August. With the invasive aquatic plants out of the way, native plants continue to grow in abundance throughout the lake. This has caused increasing impairments to lake-use through the last three seasons at Hamilton Lake. In response to the ever-increasing amounts of native plant growth the HLA has maintained negotiations with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) hoping to open the door to additional HLA sponsored native plant treatment. Prior to 2021 permitting had not allowed for the treatment of native plants by the HLA. It appears that in 2022 the HLA will be able to obtain permitting to treat just over 80 acres for native plants. This will take place in 2022 mostly in May or June. It's important to begin treatment of native plants relatively early in the season. As treated plants die and decompose, nutrients are released from the plant tissues. In the warm waters of summer this nutrient release could lead to algae blooms and other water quality problems. Spring or early-summer treatments in cooler waters will have a lower risk of complications.

Wetlands & Yard Waste

Yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and other brush seems natural but causes issues when dumped into ponds, lakes and wetlands. This includes:

Clogged waterways including ditches and culverts. When debris fills waterways and slowly travels downstream, it increases the risk of flooding. Not only is dumping into wetlands and waterways irresponsible to neighbors, *it is illegal under state law.*

Pollution in the form of excessive nutrients. **Phosphorus** in leaves and grass clippings fertilize weeds & produces excessive algae, which harms water quality and aquatic life. Putting leaves in the lake is like fertilizing our lakes for next year's growth !!

Sedimentation covers wetlands in a thick layer of mud. This chokes out native vegetation and wildlife.

What is Responsible Disposal? Mulch leaves into the yard or keep grass clippings on the lawn for natural fertilizer. Bag any WEEDS REMOVED FROM THE LAKE, leaves ,tall grasses and/or grass clippings and take to the compost site. If composting at home, keep compost piles in designated bins at least 40' away from ponds, shorelines, and wetlands. To help absorb nutrients, surround compost with native vegetation.

HAMILTON COMPOST SITE: Open M-F 8am to 3:30 pm year round. Saturday 8am to noon, April-Nov.



Buoys



Our Buoy Boys are kept busy through the boating season. 100+ buoys and no-wake buoys are placed in late April or early May, weather permitting and taken out in late September /early October. Numerous buoys are run over and displaced or destroyed. Please be mindful of these when boating. Buoys are over \$100 each. If you have a missing buoy or one that has been displaced please text 260-341-0117 and the buoys boys will take care of it.



Help promote Safe Boating on our Lake!



With the rise in popularity of our wonderful lake life, we welcome more new residents and visitors to Hamilton Lake. New or seasoned, it's important to remember that it is everyone's responsibility to help promote safety while on the water. Preventing illegal or reckless operation of boats and PWC could not only save a life, but also help avoid being ticketed by law enforcement.

While observed concerns may be considered "near misses" without injury, the effects can be unsettling and spoil the fun for everyone. ~ Think of young children in the water behind your boat, swimming back onto the tube and another large boat speeds by very close...your passengers are also tossed around... ~ Think of families swimming or kayaking off their piers, when a boat cuts right next to the buoys at nearly top cruising speeds creating rollers that swamp the shoreline.....

This is not "just part of living at the lake." BE KIND and RESPECTFUL to those around you! Educate those around you who may not know the laws. If similar situations escalate to create harm to another person or property, know the Indiana Laws to support your concerns:

- ~ Do not approach or pass another boat in a manner or rate of speed that creates a hazardous wake or wash (IC 14-15-3-15)
- ~ Do not operate any motorboat/PCW within 200 feet of any shoreline on Hamilton Lake at greater than idle speed (not to exceed 5 miles per hour)

All Indiana Boating Laws are available online at Indiana Code (IC) and we recommend a summary handbook at <https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/indiana-handbook-entire.pdf>.

Report dangerous violations of Indiana Law by contacting the IDNR or local law enforcement as published on front page. Photos or videos of safety concerns may be helpful for initial reporting.

If you are new to the lake or boating, consider taking the Boat Safety Class the first Saturday in May! Stay safe while you enjoy our beautiful lake!



Most boats are able to be operated safely. However, one type of vessel, the wake boat, can be exceptionally destructive if operated without care. Tanks at the back of these boats take on thousands of pounds of lake water to increase their weight and cause them to ride bow-up and stern-down. This design creates large wakes so that people can surf behind the boats without being tethered to them.

Just one pass of a wake boat can be devastating to the ecosystem. Unfortunately, these boats often make multiple passes in the same area, causing long-lasting damage.

When there isn't enough distance on a lake to dissipate these wakes, the boats cause shoreline erosion. They also damage docks, swamp other boats, endanger swimmers, and destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

Additionally, the propwash points downward at such an angle that it can disturb the lake bottom at depths 16' or more. This action reintroduces sequestered contaminants such as phosphorus and nitrates into the water column and results in algae blooms. The propwash also increases turbidity, which warms the water and makes the ecosystem less hospitable to native flora and fauna. It uproots native plants and destroys fish nesting sites.